

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DECLARATION

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address, and citizenship are as stated below next to my name.

I believe I am an original, first, and joint inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

Apparatus and Method for Compressing Body Tissue

which was filed in the Patent Office on November 18, 1999 and which has been assigned Patent Application Serial No. 09/443,219.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by an amendment, if any, specifically referred to in this declaration.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed:

None

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose all information known to me to be material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56, which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application:

None

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Full name of first joint inventor : **Russell F. Durgin**

Inventor's signature : _____

Date : _____

Residence : **146 Knott Street
Attleboro, MA 02703**

Citizenship : **United States of America**

Post Office Address: : **Same as above.**

Full name of second joint inventor : **Marc O. Schurr**

Inventor's signature : *Marc O. Schurr*

Date : *December 13, 1999*

Residence : **Viktor-Renner Str. 1-9
72074 Tuebingen, Germany**

Citizenship : **Germany**

Post Office Address: : **Same as above.**

Full name of third joint inventor : **Gerhard Buess**

Inventor's signature : *Gerhard Buess*

Date : *December 14, 1999*

Residence : **Klostermuele 7
72074 Tuebingen, Germany**

Citizenship : **Germany**

0995500 0910
101250 2059560

Post Office Address: : Same as above.

Full name of fourth joint inventor : Bernd Vogel

Inventor's signature : Bernd Vogel

Date : 17. 12. 99

Residence : Nikolaus-Lehnau Str. 10
76199 Karlsruhe, Germany

Citizenship : Germany

Post Office Address: : Same as above.

Full name of fifth joint inventor : Dr. Harald Fischer

Inventor's signature : Harald Fischer

Date : 17/12/99

Residence : Neue-Anlage Str. 63
76135 Karlsruhe, Germany

Citizenship : Germany

Post Office Address: : Same as above.

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Full name of first joint inventor : **Russell F. Durgin**
Inventor's signature : Russell F. Durgin
Date : December 22, 1999
Residence : **146 Knott Street
Attleboro, MA 02703**
Citizenship : **United States of America**
Post Office Address: : **Same as above.**

Full name of second joint inventor : **Marc O. Schurr**
Inventor's signature : _____
Date : _____
Residence : **Viktor-Renner Str. 1-9
72074 Tuebingen, Germany**
Citizenship : **Germany**
Post Office Address: : **Same as above.**

Full name of third joint inventor : **Gerhard Buess**
Inventor's signature : _____
Date : _____
Residence : **Klostermuele 7
72074 Tuebingen, Germany**
Citizenship : **Germany**

Post Office Address: : **Same as above.**

Full name of fourth joint inventor : **Bernd Vogel**

Inventor's signature : _____

Date : _____

Residence : **Nikolaus-Lehnau Str. 10
76199 Karlsruhe, Germany**

Citizenship : **Germany**

Post Office Address: : **Same as above.**

Full name of fifth joint inventor : **Dr. Harald Fischer**

Inventor's signature : _____

Date : _____

Residence : **Neue-Anlage Str. 63
76135 Karlsruhe, Germany**

Citizenship : **Germany**

Post Office Address: : **Same as above.**